



The Georgia Senate *This Week*

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Scholarships for special needs children gets positive response in Senate, heads for House vote



enate Bill 10, legislation that will allow the parents of special needs children to use scholarships to educate their children either in a public or private school passed the Senate Wednesday by a vote of 31 to 23. The bill, sponsored by Senate President Pro Tempore **Eric Johnson** of the 1st, is modeled after Florida's successful *McKay Scholarship Program for*

Students with Disabilities.

"This is not a new proposal," Sen. **Johnson** said, surrounded by parents of special needs children who will benefit from the legislation if it passes the House and is signed into law by Gov. **Perdue**. "The *Georgia Special Needs Scholarships* will provide money for children with disabilities and will combine parent-directed choices with student-directed funding.

"At the heart of this issue is who should decide what is in the best interest of a child with

disabilities – the parents or the government," Sen. **Johnson** said from the well.



He explained to his colleagues in the Senate that if a school fails to meet the expectations of the parents of a special needs child, then the GSN Scholarship will allow them to use the state's share of their child's funding as a scholarship to enroll their child in another school – either within the public school system or at a private school.

According to Sen. **Johnson**, in just six years, Florida's *McKay* program has gone from funding less than 1,000 children in its first year to more than 17,000 students last year. According to the Manhattan Institute, 93 percent of the parents of children with disabilities have said they are "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the new school compared with those who were satisfied (33 percent) with the public school where their child previously was enrolled. Class sizes are smaller, behavior problems have decreased and the children were far less victimized by other students, who ridiculed them and their disabilities.

The three-hour debate was not without its detractors, and six amendments, including one from Sen. **Johnson** to amend his own bill, were offered up for a vote. Only **Johnson's** amendment, Amendment One, passed.

The scholarships will be based on the cost of delivering the same services of the current public school. Georgia officials anticipate that more than 4,000 students will take advantage of the scholarships next year, and that the average scholarship will be about \$9,000 per year. During his presentation of the bill, Sen. **Johnson** introduced several parents of disabled children who hope to participate in the GSN scholarship program if the legislation passes. Georgia parent **Sammy Tate** has a 13-year-old son who suffers from cerebral palsy. She said the scholarship program will pay for her son's tuition at a private school.

“I have found a good school that will benefit my son,” Ms. **Tate** said, following the debate. “I can’t afford it on my own. The *Georgia Special Needs Scholarship program* will make an enormous difference in the life of my son.”

“Public schools do a tremendous job meeting the needs of most special needs students,” Sen. **Johnson** said, “and they are to be commended for that. However, all children are different and this bill is designed to give parents more options in choosing the best educational program for their child. We recognize that all children are individuals and a different school might more closely meet the needs of the student and parents.

“I fundamentally believe that parents are in the best position to know their children and their unique needs. They deserve the right to make the most appropriate decisions for their own children. This is especially true for parents of children with special needs,” Sen. **Johnson** added. “These families have so many hurdles and the ability to choose the most appropriate education for their children should not be one of them.”

Sen. **Johnson** said this proposal will not reduce the amount of funds available to public schools. In fact, he says, this legislation should leave school systems with more money because they are educating and transporting fewer students. Only the state’s portion of the funds will follow the child to the selected public or private school as a scholarship.

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## Delta remains independent, takeover bid withdrawn

Lt. Gov. **Casey Cagle** announced on Wednesday that US Airways had withdrawn their hostile takeover bid of Delta Air Lines, just days after the members of the Georgia General Assembly signed a letter to U.S. Attorney **Alberto Gonzales** urging him to make a full and careful review of US Airways’ recent hostile takeover bid for Delta Air Lines.

The Senate erupted into applause and a standing ovation.

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Senate aide is one millionth HOPE scholar



Who's the Celeb?
Georgia's one-millionth HOPE Scholarship recipient, John Smith, stands with former San Francisco 49ers quarter back Joe Montana during an event at the Capitol this week.

There were 999,999 before him, but Senate aide **John Smith** was recognized last week as Georgia’s one-millionth HOPE Scholar by Gov. **Sonny Perdue** and former Gov. **Zell Miller**, the man who gave Georgia HOPE.

Smith, who is an aide in the Senate Press Office and attends Georgia State University in Atlanta, gave an “aw shucks” grin and said it was just the “luck of the draw.”

“Twenty years ago there were many families in the state of Georgia that would not even allow themselves to think about their children going to college because they knew deep down they couldn't afford it,” **Miller** said. “I wanted to establish a culture of higher expectations, where nobody would ever think like that in Georgia ever again.”

A political science and finance major, **John** epitomizes the HOPE scholarship’s mission. His parents, **Mark** and **Renee Maynard**, are faith-based

missionaries who say if it wasn’t for the scholarship they couldn't have afforded their son's college costs.

In Committee Action . . .

Administrative Affairs Committee

The Administrative Affairs Committee did not meet this week.

Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee

The Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee did not meet this week.

Appropriations Committee

Chairman **Jack Hill** of the 4th called a meeting of the Senate Appropriations Committee to order on Wednesday, January 31. The Committee heard from **John Robertson**, vice president of Research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, who gave an update of Georgia's Economy concerning employment, income growth and tax revenues. Then, Dr. **Rajeev Dhawan**, director of the Economic Forecasting Center at Georgia State University, presented a national and state forecast update. The update addressed issues in the state of Georgia such as rate cuts, sales tax revenues and the creation of jobs.

Banking and Financial Institutions Committee

On Tuesday, January 30, Chairman **Bill Hamrick** of the 30th called the first meeting of the 2007 session to order. The members of the Committee were introduced and the Committee Rules were unanimously adopted. Then, the Committee began the hearing of *Senate Bill 70*. Commissioner **Rob Braswell** of the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance explained and discussed *SB 70*, which would update banking laws to reflect changes in federal law regarding financial institutions.

Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee did not meet this week.

Education and Youth Committee

Chairman **Dan Weber** of the 40th called the Committee's first meeting of the 2007 legislation session to order on Thursday, January 25. After unanimously adopting the Committee rules for 2007, Chairman **Weber** paused to commend Sen. **Dan Moody** of the 56th for his previous work as Senate Education chairman. President Pro Tempore **Eric Johnson** of the 1st then presented the Committee Substitute to *Senate Bill 10*, which is known as the *Georgia Special Needs Scholarship Act*. The legislation would provide for scholarships for public school students with disabilities to attend eligible private schools. Sen. **Johnson** stated that the bill was modeled after legislation in the state of Florida, known as the *McKay Scholarship*. Next, **Holly Robinson** of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation spoke in favor of *SB 10*. Butts County Superintendent Dr. **Alan White** stated that while he supports the legislation, he is concerned with certain aspects of the bill's current form. Fulton County Board of Education Member **Ashley Widener** spoke in support of the bill, stating that it gives the parents of special needs children more choice. **Sally Fitzgerald** of the PTA then spoke against *SB 10*, claiming that it will limit accountability. **Cathy Everett**, a concerned parent, also spoke against *SB 10*. After a lengthy discussion, in which several other audience members spoke for and against the legislation, *SB 10* passed out of Committee by substitute by a 5 to 4 vote, with Senators **Ron Ramsey** of the 43rd, **Vincent Fort** of the 39th, **Regina Thomas** of the 2nd and **Horacena Tate** of the 38th in dissent.

The Committee reconvened on Tuesday, January 30, to consider *Senate Bills 39* and *68*. Chairman **Weber** presented *SB 39*, known as the *Charter System Act*, and *SB 68*, known as the *Career Academies Act of 2007*, to the Committee. The bills are a part of Lieutenant Governor **Casey Cagle**'s legislative package for 2007. *SB 39* will authorize the State Board of Education to enter into a charter with a local board of education to establish a local system as a charter system, and establish a Charter Advisory Committee to make certain recommendations to the State Board. *SB 68* defines career academies and establishes state start-up funding for these institutions. Next, Lt. Gov. **Cagle**'s Legislative Counsel **Irene Munn** invited several charter school students to speak to the Committee about their educational experiences. Students from Kipp Ways Academy, Tech High School and Central Education Center (CEC) then relayed stories on how important charter schools have been in

their lives. **David Jernigan**, president of Kipp Ways Academy, then spoke in favor of *SB 39*, stating that more flexibility will be of great benefit to Georgia's charter schools. Georgia School Superintendent **Kathy Cox** and members of her staff then spoke in support of both bills, saying that the legislation would further the success of charter schools in Georgia. Several other audience members spoke in favor of the legislation. Representatives of Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE), Georgia Association of Educators and Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) stated that they support both bills, but that some sections of *SB 39* need to be clarified further. *SB 39* passed by substitute by a vote of 4 to 3, and *SB 68* passed by a 5 to 2 vote.

Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee did not meet this week.

Finance Committee

On Monday, January 29, the Committee met to take up *Senate Resolution 21*. Sen. **Judson Hill** of the 32nd presented the legislation, which proposes a constitutional amendment that no law will increase any state purpose tax or license fee unless approved by two-thirds majority of each branch of the General Assembly. **Alan Essig** of the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute raised some concerns with comprehensive tax reform to the Committee. A representative from the American Cancer Society also spoke to *SR 21*, regarding the state cigarette tax. After more debate, *SR 21* passed by committee substitute.

The Committee reconvened, along with the House Ways and Means Committee, on Tuesday, January 30. Tax Foundation representatives, **Jonathan Williams** and **Chris Atkins** discussed Georgia's tax code and how it compares to nearby states. **Williams** and **Atkins** also gave the Committee suggestions on how to make Georgia more competitive and attractive new businesses.

Government Oversight Committee

The Government Oversight Committee did not meet this week.

Health and Human Services Committee

Chairman **Don Thomas** of the 54th called the meeting to order on Tuesday, January 30. The Committee Rules were unanimously adopted, and then Sen. **Cecil Staton** of the 18th presented *Senate Resolution 66*, which creates the Senate Study Committee that would examine the current shortage of practicing physicians and nurses throughout the state of Georgia. Sen. **Judson Hill** of the 32nd presented *Senate Resolution 22*. *SR 22* creates the Hospital Health Care Standards Commission for Prevention of Hospital Acquired Infections, which will study the cleanliness and safety standards in hospitals across Georgia and examines the causes of hospital acquired infections. Then, *Senate Resolution 30* was introduced by Sen. **Thomas**. *SR 30* creates the Joint Study Committee on State Stroke System of Care for the purpose of studying the system of Georgia. *SR 66*, *SR 22* and *SR 32* were all unanimously adopted. Then *Senate Bill 57*, also known as the *Ray Biddy and Gene Mullis Act*, and *Senate Bill 45*, which creates the Chronic Kidney Disease Task Force within the Department of Human Resources' Division of Public Health, was passed. There was also a presentation on Levels of Care for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Higher Education Committee

The Senate Higher Education Committee did not meet this week.

Insurance and Labor Committee

On Wednesday, January 31, the Insurance and Labor Committee held a public hearing on *Senate Bill 28*, the *Insuring Georgia's Families Act*, by Sen. **Judson Hill** of the 32nd. Sen. **Hill** explained *SB 28* and how it seeks to lower the uninsured population in Georgia by creating new incentives that will encourage the uninsured to adopt health insurance coverage. After much discussion, Chairman **Ralph Hudgens** of the 47th closed the meeting with the intent of discussing *SB 28* at a later meeting.

Interstate Cooperation Committee

The Interstate Cooperation Committee did not meet this week.

Joint Senate and House Health and Human Services Committee

Senate Chairman **Don Thomas** of the 54th and House Chairman **Sharon Cooper** of the 41st called the joint meeting to order on Thursday, January 25 at Grady Hospital. The joint Committee heard presentations from members of the Emory Medical School and the Morehouse School of Medicine, both of whom have partnerships with Grady Hospital. The presentations focused on the impact that Grady Hospital has on the health of the community. **Ben Robinson**, executive director of the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce, was also in attendance and spoke about the need for more physicians and the importance of Grady Hospital to the state of Georgia.

Judiciary Committee

On Thursday, January 25, the Committee met to take up two bills. Chairman **Preston Smith** of the 52nd announced that *Senate Bill 21*, sponsored by Senator **John Douglas** of the 17th, would be discussed in a later meeting. Sen. **Chip Rogers** of the 21st presented *SB 14*, which would extend the sunset dates by two years for superior court clerks. The bill passed unanimously. Sen. **Judson Hill** of the 32nd then presented *SB 20*, which would increase the penalty for a second offense of sexually abusing a disabled person, changing the prison sentence from one to five years to 10 to 20 years. **Ellyn Jeager**, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy of Mental Health America of Georgia, explained the variations of mental illness and testified in support of including those who are mentally ill in the context of the bill. Chairman **Smith** raised some questions as to the clarity of the bill's language, and requested that Sen. **Hill** refine the bill and present it to the Committee at a future date.

Natural Resources and the Environment Committee

The Committee held its first meeting of the 2007 session on Wednesday, January 24, to adopt its rules and hear presentations. **Dan Forrester** of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources gave a presentation introducing Governor **Perdue's** new "Go Fish Georgia" initiative. The program will aim to re-engineer the fishing industry across the state. Chairman **Ross Tolleson** of the 20th stated that the Committee will continue their work next week, detailing the economic impact of the program.

Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

Chairman **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** of the 24th called the Senate Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee to order on Tuesday, January 30. Members approved the committee rules for the 2007 session. *Senate Bill 44* was introduced by Sen. **Jeff Mullis** of the 53rd. The bill would create the Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council. Chief **Lawton Smith** of the Thunderbolt Fire Department and Chief **Gordon Anderson** of the Rome Fire Department told the Committee that standard training procedures are needed for all of the state's fire departments. At the conclusion of the presentation, a Committee Substitute for the bill was introduced, that set the effective date at July 1, 2007. The bill was adopted by a unanimous vote. Officials with Authentix Corporation then gave a presentation about the smuggling of tobacco products, and new technology that could be used to help curb the problem. **Andy Lord** and **Rob Sader** told the Committee that the smuggling of cigarettes and other tobacco products are a huge threat to security, because the proceeds from the smuggling are used to fund terror operations in the U.S. and abroad. The company offers a high tech solution using a secure and traceable stamp that can replace the current tobacco stamp used in Georgia.

Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee

The Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee did not meet this week.

Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee

The Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee did not meet this week.

Retirement Committee

A joint meeting of the Senate and House Retirement Committees was held on Thursday, February 1. The Committee received an update on the status of the Employee and Teacher Retirement Systems from **William Cary** and **Nancy Boedy**, co-chief investment officers for the department that oversees investment of the retirement funds. Mr. **Cary** and Ms. **Boedy** informed committee members that the retirement fund currently stands at \$64 billion, all of which is invested in securities. Mr. **Cary** and Ms. **Boedy** added that the investments generated \$5 billion in fiscal year 2006, which was enough to cover the \$180 million the retirement systems' pay monthly in benefits to their 71,000 retirees.

Rules Committee

The Senate Rules Committee met on Wednesday, January 31. Chairman **Don Balfour** of the 9th presented *Senate Bill 76*, which would transfer certain powers of appointment from the Committee on Assignments to the Office of Lieutenant Governor **Casey Cagle**. These powers include the appointment of the members of several commissions and councils, including the Georgia World Congress Center Authority Overview Committee, the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council and others. After some brief discussion, *SB 76* passed through Committee unanimously.

Science and Technology Committee

The Senate Science and Technology Committee did not meet this week.

Special Judiciary Committee

Chairman **Michael Meyer von Bremen** of the 12th called the Committee to order on Tuesday, January 30, for a hearing on *Senate Bill 30*. Sen. **Cecil Staton** of the 18th presented the bill, which would prohibit the use of the names or pictures of service members of the U.S. armed forces to advertise the sale of any goods, wares or merchandise. Sen. **Staton** explained a situation in which an Iraq war protestor manufactured tee shirts with the names of deceased servicemen and women printed on the back. Sen. **John Douglas** of the 17th then spoke in favor of *SB 30*, and introduced his legislative aide, **Richard Ingram**, to the Committee. **Ingram** is an Army veteran who served in Iraq, and he also voiced his support for the bill. After some discussion, Chairman **Meyer von Bremen** stated that the Committee would take up *SB 30* at a later meeting.

State Institutions and Property Committee

The State Institutions & Property Committee met on Tuesday, January 30. The Committee adopted its rules for the 2007 legislative session and considered *Senate Resolution 68*. *SR 68* would name the Georgia Department of Transportation's maintenance headquarters in Long County in honor of **William H. "Sonny Boy" Skipper**, a recently deceased DOT foreman who served 30 years in the county. Senator **Tommie Williams** of the 19th addressed the committee on behalf of Long County commissioners, who he said made the initial renaming request. After Sen. **Williams**' brief presentation, committee approved the resolution by a unanimous vote.

State and Local Governmental Operations Committee

The State and Local Governmental Operations Committee met on Wednesday, January 31, to discuss *Senate Bill 32*, *Senate Bill 82* and *Senate Bill 83*. Sen. **Dan Weber** of the 40th presented *SB 82*, which would create the City of Dunwoody in DeKalb County. The Committee heard from several Dunwoody residents and leaders who spoke for and against *SB 82*. The bill passed through the Committee by substitute by a vote of 4 to 2. The Committee then heard a presentation from Sen. **Weber** on *SB 83*, which changes certain local government provisions to newly created municipalities. *SB 83* also passed by substitute by a vote of 4 to 2. The Committee also took up *SB 32* by Sen. **Weber**, which would allow the City of Doraville to annex certain property in DeKalb County. Doraville Mayor **Ray Jenkins** spoke on behalf of *SB 32*. *SB 32* passed out of committee by a vote of 5 to 1.

Transportation Committee

Chairman **Jeff Mullis** of the 53rd called the Committee to order on Wednesday, January 31, to hear a presentation by the Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT) Deputy Commissioner **Buddy Gratton**, regarding the department's maintenance needs. Commissioner **Gratton** gave an overview of the duties, activities and budget of the department, then outlined several of the department's maintenance and financial needs. The Senate Committee then joined the House for a joint meeting in which a presentation was given by **Robert Poole**, founder of the Reason Foundation, who presented his study, *Reducing Congestion in Atlanta: A Bold New Approach to Increasing Mobility*. Mr. **Poole** is also the director of Transportation Studies at the foundation. In his study, he proposed a reconstruction of Atlanta's long-range transportation plan by adding four major toll road projects, which would significantly reduce the region's current and projected traffic congestion.

Urban Affairs Committee

The Urban Affairs Committee did not meet this week.

Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

Chairman **John Douglas** of the 17th called the meeting of the Senate Veterans and Military affairs Committee to order on Tuesday, January 30. Following adoption of the Committee rules, Senators heard a presentation from Lieutenant Colonel **Nate Pulliam**. Col. **Pulliam** served on a transition team in Iraq, helping restore a democratic government to the country. He told the Committee that while the US had made mistakes in strategy while fighting the war, victory in Iraq is critical to our national security. The next presentation featured Major General **Terry Nesbitt**. Gen. **Nesbitt** is the Director of the Georgia Department of Emergency Management, and serves in the Georgia National Guard. He briefed Committee members on the status of Georgia Guard members serving at the U.S. border in New Mexico.

Georgia State Senate First Readers

(Friday, January 26 – Thursday February 1, 2007)

Senate Resolutions

- SR 85** **Roswell High School Hornets football team; commend**
Sens. **Dan Moody** (56th)
Read and adopted – 01/26/07
- SR 86** **Johnson, Ms. Onnie Lucille; condolences**
Sen. **Renee Unterman** (45th)
Read and adopted – 01/26/07
- SR 87** **Human Resources, Dept.; urged to name district health office building at Northwest Georgia Regional Hospital in honor of Dr. Raymond F. Corpe**
Sens. **Preston Smith** (52nd); **Don Thomas** (54th);
Jeff Mullis (53rd); **Chip Pearson** (51st) and **Bill Heath** (31st)
Health and Human Services Committee – 01/26/07
- SR 88** **Tyler, Howard A.; recognize**
Sens. **Jack Hill** (4th) and **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th)
Read and adopted – 01/26/07
- SR 89** **Buehler, Officer Matthew; recognize**
Sens. **Jack Hill** (4th); **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th);
Judson Hill (32nd) and **John Wiles** (37th)
Read and adopted – 01/26/07
- SR 90** **Oliver, Mitchell; recognize**
Sens. **Jack Hill** (4th); **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th) and
Seth Harp (29th)
Read and adopted – 01/26/07
- SR 91** **Lunsford, Sr., Walter T.; condolences**
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Read and adopted – 01/26/07
- SR 92** **New Horizons Employees Achieving Today; commend**
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Read and adopted – 01/26/07
- SR 93** **Coweta Up In Smoke Barbecue Cook-off; recognize**
Sen. **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th)
Read and adopted – 01/29/07
- SR 94** **The Georgia Renal Coalition; commend**
Sens. **Tommie Chance** (19th); **Ronnie Chance** (16th); **John Douglas** (17th);
Cecil Staton (18th); **Don Thomas** (54th) and others
Read and adopted – 01/29/07
- SR 95** **Israel, State of; expressing cultural, economic, and educational cooperation**
Sens. **Judson Hill** (32nd); **David Adelman** (42nd); **Renee Unterman** (45th);
Dan Moody (56th); **Chip Rogers** (21st) and others
Read and adopted – 01/29/07

- SR 96 Lipson, Dr. Robert Alan; condolences**
Sens. **Judson Hill** (32nd); **John Wiles** (37th); **Chip Rogers** (21st);
Steve Thompson (33rd); **Doug Stoner** (6th) and others
Read and adopted – 01/29/07
- SR 97 Meyer, Anabelle Grace and Isabelle Anne; celebrate birth**
Sens. **Jeff Chapman** (3rd); **Tommie Williams** (19th) and
Eric Johnson (1st)
Read and adopted – 01/29/07
- SR 98 Quesada, Cadence Olivia; celebrate birth**
Sens. **Jeff Chapman** (3rd); **Tommie Williams** (19th) and
Eric Johnson (1st)
Read and adopted – 01/29/07
- SR 99 Home School Day at the Capitol**
Sens. **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th);
Tommie Williams (19th);
John Douglas (17th) and others
Read and adopted – 01/29/07
- SR 100 Community Health Centers Day**
Sens. **Jack Murphy** (27th) and **Chip Pearson** (51st)
Read and adopted – 01/29/07
- SR 101 Lesser, Mr. Craig; recognize**
Sens. **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Jeff Mullis** (53rd);
Chip Rogers (21st); **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); **Jack Murphy** (27th) and others
Read and adopted – 01/29/07
- SR 102 Phi Delta Theta Fraternity; recognize**
Sens. **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th) and **Ralph Hudgens** (47th)
Read and adopted – 01/29/07
- SR 103 Schley County, Georgia; recognize**
Sen. **George Hooks** (14th)
Read and adopted – 01/29/07
- SR 104 Eddie Wiggins Bridge; Houston County; dedicate**
Sen. **Ross Tolleson** (20th)
Transportation Committee – 01/30/07
- SR 105 McMichael, Miss Bliss; congratulate**
Sen. **Ross Tolleson** (20th)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 106 Guido, Dr. Michael; commend**
Sen. **Jack Hill** (4th)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 107 Brown, Alisa R.; recognize**
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 108 Jones, Phyllis; recognize**
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 109 Armstrong, Michael; recognize**
Sen. **Ed Harbison** (15th)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07

- SR 110 Pirkle, Gordon; commend**
 Sen. **Chip Pearson** (51st)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 111 National Federation of Independent Business in Georgia; recognize**
 Sens. **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Chip Rogers** (21st);
Ross Tolleson (20th); **Cecil Staton** (18th); **John Douglas** (17th);
Jeff Mullis (53rd) and others
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 112 12 for Life Program, Carroll County School System, Southwire Company; recognize**
 Sens. **Bill Hamrick** (30th) and **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 113 Smalley, Joanne; congratulate**
 Sen. **George Hooks** (14th)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 114 Williams, Rev. Roger W.; condolences**
 Sen. **Tommie Williams** (19th)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 115 Blount, Alice Sharpe; congratulation**
 Sen. **Tommie Williams** (19th)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 116 Future Farmers of America; recognize**
 Sen. **John Bulloch** (11th); **Ross Tolleson** (20th); **Ralph Hudgens** (47th);
Jack Hill (4th) and **Tommie Williams** (19th)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 117 Georgia Farm Bureau Federation; recognize**
 Sen. **John Bulloch** (11th); **Ross Tolleson** (20th); **Ralph Hudgens** (47th);
Jack Hill (4th) and **Tommie Williams** (19th)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 118 Strickland, Honorable Joe C.; condolences**
 Sen. **Jeff Chapman** (3rd); **Eric Johnson** (1st); **Tommie Williams** (19th) and
Mitch Seabaugh (28th)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 119 Sims, Deborah; commend**
 Sens. **Jeff Mullis** (53rd) and **Preston Smith** (52nd)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 120 North Clayton Falcons 13 and 14 year-old football team; congratulate**
 Sens. **Valencia Seay** (34th); **Gail Davenport** (44th); **Horacena Tate** (38th)
 and **Vincent Fort** (39th)
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 121 Tourism Industry in Georgia; commend**
 Sens. **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Joseph Carter** (13th);
Robert Brown (26th); **Ronnie Chance** (16th) and others
Read and adopted – 01/30/07
- SR 122 Black Contractors Day in Georgia; recognize**
 Sens. **Emanuel Jones** (10th); **Gail Davenport** (44th); **Valencia Seay** (34th);
Kasim Reed (35th); **Tim Golden** (8th) and others
Read and adopted – 01/30/07

- SR 123** **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; urged to begin study of the costs/effects of raising the full pool for Lake Lanier**
Sens. **Lee Hawkins** (49th); **Jack Murphy** (27th); **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Renee Unterman** (45th); **Dan Moody** (56th) and others
Natural Resources and Environment Committee – 01/31/07
- SR 124** **U.S. Congress; urged to withdraw from the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America**
Sens. **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **John Douglas** (17th); **Jeff Chapman** (3rd); **Judson Hill** (32nd) and others
Rules Committee – 01/31/07
- SR 125** **Lottery Funds; reserved only for the HOPE Scholarship Program CA**
Sens. **Joseph Carter** (13th); **Seth Harp** (29th); **Ronnie Chance** (16th); **Bill Heath** (31st); **Bill Hamrick** (30th) and others
Higher Education Committee – 01/31/07
- SR 127** **Counties/Municipalities in Georgia; urged to take proactive measures towards reducing underage drinking**
Sens. **Regina Thomas** (2nd); **Greg Goggans** (7th); **Cecil Staton** (18th); **Eric Johnson** (1st); **Tommie Williams** (19th) and others
Read and adopted – 01/31/07
- SR 128** **Mill Creek Hawks 7-8 year-old National Pee Wee All-Star baseball team; commend**
Sen. **Renee Unterman** (45th)
Read and adopted – 01/31/07
- SR 129** **Southern Catholic College Day**
Sen. **Preston Smith** (51st)
Read and adopted – 01/31/07
- SR 130** **Townships; power of zoning/regulation of land use development; funding**
Sens. **David Adelman** (42nd); **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Dan Weber** (40th); **Tim Golden** (8th); **Doug Stoner** (6th) and others
Urban Affairs Committee – 02/01/07
- SR 131** **Ronald Reagan Day; recognize**
Sens. **Ralph Hudgens** (47th); **Eric Johnson** (1st); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th); **Joseph Carter** (13th) and others
Read and adopted – 02/01/07
- SR 132** **Georgia's sustainable/friendly businesses; commend**
Sens. **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th) and others
Read and adopted – 02/01/07
- SR 133** **Augusta, Georgia, Environmental Issues; create joint study committee**
Sens. **Ed Tarver** (22nd); **J.B. Powell** (23rd); **Jack Hill** (4th); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th) and others
Natural Resources Committee – 02/01/07
- SR 134** **Capitol Police; commend**
Sens. **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th); **George Hooks** (14th); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Ed Harbison** (15th); **Seth Harp** (29th) and others
Read and adopted – 02/01/07

SR 135 Forestry Day at the Capitol; recognize
Sens. **Ross Tolleson** (20th); **John Bulloch** (11th); **Jack Hill** (4th);
Eric Johnson (1st); **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th) and others
Read and adopted – 02/01/07

SR 136 Emmett Henry Austin Memorial Bridge; dedicate
Sens. **Steve Thompson** (33rd) and **Bill Hamrick** (30th)
Transportation Committee – 02/01/07

Senate Bills:

SB 51 Human Res., Dept.; owners of personal care homes; criminal history background
Sens. **Preston Smith** (52nd); **Greg Goggans** (7th); **Ralph Hudgens** (47th);
Bill Hamrick (30th) and **Seth Harp** (29th)
Health and Human Services Committee – 01/26/07

SB 53 Health Planning; exemptions; acute cancer hospitals
Sens. **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Bill Hamrick** (30th);
Mitch Seabaugh (28th); **Seth Harp** (29th); **Ross Tolleson** (20th) and others
Health and Human Services Committee – 01/26/07

SB 54 Offenses; incest; provide for gender neutrality
Sens. **Preston Smith** (52nd); **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Joseph Carter** (13th) and
Bill Hamrick (30th)
Judiciary Committee – 01/26/07

SB 55 Alcoholic Beverages; resealed partially consumed bottle of wine; uniform rules of the road
Sens. **Renee Unterman** (45th); **Cecil Staton** (18th); **Don Balfour** (9th);
Nan Orrock (36th); **Seth Harp** (29th) and others
Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee – 01/26/07

SB 56 Alcoholic Beverages; wine direct shipper licenses; provide for issuance
Sens. **Renee Unterman** (45th); **Cecil Staton** (18th); **Don Balfour** (9th) and
Seth Harp (29th)
Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee – 01/26/07

SB 57 Ray Biddy and Gene Mullis Act; renal disease facilities and personnel
Sens. **Renee Unterman** (45th); **Don Thomas** (54th); **Jeff Mullis** (53rd);
Don Balfour (9th); **Gloria Butler** (55th) and others
Health and Human Services Committee – 01/26/07

SB 58 Taxation; payment of taxes where property lies in more than one county; repeal certain provisions
Sens. **Preston Smith** (52nd); **John Wiles** (37th) and
John Bulloch (11th)
Finance Committee – 01/26/07

SB 59 Social Networking Website; illegal for owner to allow minor to create/maintain profile; provide for penalties
Sens. **Cecil Staton** (18th); **Seth Harp** (29th); **Joseph Carter** (13th);
Chip Rogers (21st); **George Hooks** (14th) and others
Science and Technology Committee – 01/26/07

SB 60 Georgia Trauma Commission; establish
Sens. **Cecil Staton** (18th); **Eric Johnson** (1st); **David Adelman** (42nd);
Renee Unterman (45th); **John Bulloch** (11th) and others
Health and Human Services Committee – 01/26/07

- SB 61** **Child-Placing Agency; require petitioner to submit to a criminal history records check**
 Sens. **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th); **Valencia Seay** (34th); **Gloria Butler** (55th) and **Cecil Staton** (18th)
Health and Human Services Committee – 01/26/07
- SB 62** **Georgia Crime Information Center; provide certain conditions for requesting criminal history records**
 Sens. **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th); **Valencia Seay** (34th); **Joseph Carter** (13th) and **Cecil Staton** (18th)
Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee – 01/26/07
- SB 63** **Property; single-family residential real estate; definition; exempt. Cert. lien**
 Sens. **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th) and **Dan Weber** (40th)
Judiciary Committee – 01/29/07
- SB 64** **Liens; wrong real estate; provide for a special designation**
 Sens. **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th) and **Dan Weber** (40th)
Judiciary Committee – 01/29/07
- SB 65** **Property; single-family residential real estate; contract; requirements**
 Sens. **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th) and **Dan Weber** (40th)
Judiciary Committee – 01/29/07
- SB 66** **Abortion; medical equipment for facilities; procedures**
 Sens. **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **John Douglas** (17th); **Ralph Hudgens** (47th) and others
Health and Human Services Committee – 01/29/07
- SB 67** **Superior Courts; specify costs not be considered contingent expenses**
 Sens. **John Wiles** (37th); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Jack Hill** (4th); **Seth Harp** (29th); **Chip Rogers** (21st) and others
Judiciary Committee – 01/29/07
- SB 68** **Career Academies Act; disbursement of funds; charter schools**
 Sens. **Dan Weber** (40th); **Joseph Carter** (13th); **John Douglas** (17th); **Dan Moody** (56th); **Don Thomas** (54th) and others
Education and Youth Committee – 01/29/07
- SB 69** **River Basin Protection Act; regulate inter-basin transfer of water**
 Sens. **Preston Smith** (52nd) and **Seth Harp** (29th)
Natural Resources/Environment Committee – 01/29/07
- SB 70** **Financial Institutions; update banking laws to reflect changes in federal law**
 Sens. **Bill Hamrick** (30th); **Ralph Hudgens** (47th); **Steve Thompson** (33rd); **Jack Murphy** (27th); **Ed Tarver** (22nd) and others
Banking and Financial Institutions Committee – 01/29/07
- SB 71** **Special Elections; questions to the voters shall be held on certain dates**
 Sens. **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Ross Tolleson** (20th); **Cecil Staton** (18th); **John Douglas** (17th) and others
Ethics Committee – 01/29/07

- SB 72** **Quality Basic Education Act; school administrative managers; financial affairs**
Sens. **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Dan Weber** (40th); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Ross Tolleson** (20th); **Cecil Staton** (18th) and others
Education and Youth Committee – 01/29/07
- SB 73** **HealthCare Plans; continue access to care; enrollees; definitions**
Sens. **David Shafer** (48th); **Ralph Hudgens** (47th) and **Dan Moody** (56th)
Insurance and Labor Committee – 01/29/07
- SB 74** **Returning Hero Education Act; admission standards for certain combat veterans**
Sens. **J.B. Powell** (23rd); **Ed Harbison** (15th); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Seth Harp** (29th); **Ed Tarver** (22nd) and others
Higher Education Committee – 01/29/07
- SB 75** **Scholarships; postsecondary; minimum state-wide standards for honor courses**
Sens. **Michael Meyer von Bremen** (12th); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Doug Stoner** (6th) and **Tim Golden** (8th)
Higher Education Committee – 01/29/07
- SB 76** **Assignment, Committee on; powers, duties; change provisions; transfer of power**
Sens. **Eric Johnson** (1st) and **Tommie Williams** (19th)
Rules Committee – 01/30/07
- SB 77** **Commercial Vehicles; local tag agents; International Registration Plan**
Sens. **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Ross Tolleson** (20th); **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th); **John Bulloch** (11th); **Greg Goggans** (7th) and others
Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee – 01/30/07
- SB 78** **Community Health, Dept. of; powers, duties and functions; change certain provisions**
Sens. **Bill Hamrick** (30th) and **Judson Hill** (32nd)
Health and Human Services Committee – 01/30/07
- SB 79** **Criminal Attempt; increase maximum punishment for convictions; felonies punishable by death/life imprisonment**
Sens. **Bill Hamrick** (30th); **Preston Smith** (52nd); **Bill Cowsert** (46th) and **Joseph Carter** (13th)
Judiciary Committee – 01/30/07
- SB 80** **Public Retirement Systems; define terms; alternative investments; provide code of ethics**
Sens. **Judson Hill** (32nd); **Curt Thompson** (5th); **Ralph Hudgens** (47th); **Preston Smith** (52nd); **Bill Heath** (31st) and others
Retirement Committee – 01/30/07
- SB 81** **Special Licenses; 100 years of scouting; Boy Scouts of America**
Sens. **Chip Pearson** (51st); **John Wiles** (37th); **Don Thomas** (54th); **Lee Hawkins** (49th); **Nancy Schaefer** (50th) and others
Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee – 01/30/07
- SB 82** **Dunwoody, City of; incorporation, boundaries, and powers of the city**
Sens. **Dan Weber** (40th); **Eric Johnson** (1st); **David Shafer** (48th) and **Tommie Williams** (19th)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 01/30/07

- SB 83** **Municipalities; change certain local government provisions**
Sens. **Dan Weber** (40th); **Eric Johnson** (1st); **David Shafer** (48th) and **Tommie Williams** (19th)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 01/30/07
- SB 84** **Insurance; protect members of United States armed forces; unscrupulous practices; marketing/sale of insurance**
Sens. **David Shafer** (48th); **John Douglas** (17th); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Ralph Hudgens** (47th); **Dan Moody** (56th) and others
Insurance and Labor Committee – 01/31/07
- SB 85** **Equal Access to Extracurricular Activities; home/private school students may participate in public schools; provide conditions**
Sens. **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **David Shafer** (48th); **Chip Pearson** (51st); **John Douglas** (17th) and others
Education and Youth Committee – 01/31/07
- SB 86** **Safety Belts; passenger vehicles; eliminate certain exceptions to the required use**
Sens. **Don Thomas** (54th); **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th); **Doug Stoner** (6th); **Jack Murphy** (27th); **Dan Weber** (40th) and others
Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee – 01/31/07
- SB 87** **Highway System; Dept. of Transportation; RV friendly markers on specific service signs for business establishments**
Sens. **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Chip Rogers** (21st); **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); **Greg Goggans** (7th) and **Jim Whitehead, Sr.** (24th)
Transportation Committee – 01/31/07
- SB 88** **Care of a Grandchild Act; provide subsidy to certain grandparents raising grandchildren under certain circumstances**
Sens. **Renee Unterman** (45th); **Valencia Seay** (34th); **Tommie Williams** (19th); **Nancy Schaefer** (50th); and **Eric Johnson** (1st)
Judiciary Committee – 01/31/07
- SB 89** **Georgia Township Act; creation**
Sens. **David Adelman** (42nd); **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Dan Weber** (40th); **Tim Golden** (8th); **Doug Stoner** (6th) and others
Urban Affairs Committee – 02/01/07
- SB 90** **City of Hampton Public Facilities Authority; outstanding debt/contracts; local governing authority of Henry County**
Sen. **John Douglas** (17th)
State and Local Governmental Operations Committee – 02/01/07
- SB 91** **Traffic Offenses; fleeing/attempting to elude a pursuing police vehicle; punishment; change provisions**
Sens. **Chip Pearson** (51st); **John Wiles** (37th); **David Adelman** (42nd); **J.B. Powell** (23rd) and **Joseph Carter** (13th)
Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee – 02/01/07
- SB 92** **Commissioner, Revenue; powers/duties; sales/use taxes; collection of certain data**
Sens. **Chip Pearson** (51st); **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Don Balfour** (9th); **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th) and **Chip Rogers** (21st)
Finance Committee – 02/01/07
- SB 93** **Patient Disclosure for Eye Surgery Act; delegation of postoperative eye care for patient who has undergone eye surgery**
Sens. **Preston Smith** (52nd); **Don Thomas** (54th); **Lee Hawkins** (49th); **Judson Hill** (32nd) and **Renee Unterman** (45th)
Health and Human Services Committee – 02/01/07

- SB 94** **Dispossessory Proceedings; clarify the process for judgments by defaults**
 Sens. **John Wiles** (37th); **Bill Hamrick** (30th); **Bill Heath** (31st); **Jeff Mullis** (53rd) and **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th)
Special Judiciary Committee – 02/01/07
- SB 95** **Cigarettes/Tobacco; minors; unlawful to attempt purchase; vending machines; change certain provisions**
 Sens. **Joseph Carter** (13th); **David Adelman** (42nd); **Don Thomas** (54th); **Ronnie Chance** (16th) and **Valencia Seay** (34th)
Health and Human Services Committee – 02/01/07
- SB 96** **Drug-Free Work Programs; provide for onsite/oral testing**
 Sens. **Tim Golden** (8th) and **Doug Stoner** (6th)
Insurance and Labor Committee – 02/01/07
- SB 97** **Criminal Trial Proceedings; require parties to raise specific objections to jury charges prior to jury retiring to deliberate**
 Sens. **Bill Hamrick** (30th) and **Mitch Seabaugh** (28th)
Judiciary Committee – 02/01/07
- SB 98** **Crimes/Offenses; Georgia Bureau of Investigation investigate certain offenses against minors, including subpoena power**
 Sens. **Bill Hamrick** (30th); **Jeff Mullis** (53rd); **Don Thomas** (54th); **Bill Heath** (31st); **Cecil Staton** (18th) and others
Judiciary Committee – 02/01/07

House Bills:

- HB 96** **State depositories; Federal Home Loan Banks; secure state funds**
 Reps. **James Mills** (25th); **Johnny Floyd** (147th); **Calvin Hill** (21st) and **David Knight** (126th)
Banking and Financial Institutions Committee – 01/31/07
- HB 132** **Vessels; certain ports; numbers of pilots; change certain provisions**
 Reps. **Ron Stephens** (164th); **Jerry Keen** (179th); **Earl Carter** (159th) and **Bob Bryant** (160th)
Economic Development Committee – 01/31/07

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